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TO RODMAN/LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER

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FEBRUARY 9, 1973

MORI/CDF
C03339808

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TOP SECRET

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: CEASE-FIRE INCIDENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

INCREASED TO 23 MAJOR AND 140 MINOR VIOLATIONS YESTERDAY. CASU-

ALTIES INCLUDED AT LEAST 306 ENEMY AND 48 FRIENDLY KILLED.

EIGHT MAJOR VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES. COMMUNIST ARTILLERY UNITS IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ARE MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON MARINE AND AIRBORNE UNITS TO PREVENT CONSOLIDATION OF POSITIONS ON THE RETAKING OF LOST GROUND. THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO MOVE UNITS CLOSER TO POPULATION CENTERS IN THE LOWLANDS IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES. THE USE OF 122-MM ARTILLERY AGAINST GOVERNMENT UNITS AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE SALLY, NORTH OF HUE, SUGGESTS THAT THE ENEMY HAS MOVED SOME HEAVIER GUNS CLOSER TO GOVERNMENT DEFENSES NEAR ROUTE 1. SOUTH OF HUE, GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST ARVN UNITS AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE ANZIO ARE CONTINUING. FRIENDLY FORCES RETOOK A HAMLET SOUTH-EAST OF QUANG NGAI CITY. A 2ND ARVN DIVISION TRAINING CENTER SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI ON ROUTE 1 WAS ATTACKED BY A SUSPECTED ENEMY FORCE: 81 ARVN WERE WOUNDED AND SEVEN ARE MISSING.

THE SITUATION IN MILITARY REGION 2 HAS IMPROVED SOMEWHAT, BUT KONTUM CITY REMAINS ISOLATED. AN EMERGENCY AIRLIFT IS BEING READIED TO BRING IN FOOD SUPPLIES. ROUTE 14 IS STILL CUT SOUTH OF PLEIKU. REGIONAL FORCES RETOOK A HAMLET IN DARLAC PROVINCE IN ONE OF TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. THE OTHER WAS A GROUND ATTACK IN PLEIKU PROVINCE WHICH ARVN FORCES REPULSED.

ACTION IN THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY WAS SMALL SCALE AND LOCALIZED, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE MADE INROADS IN SOME AREAS. THE SENIOR U.S. ADVISOR IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE IN MILITARY REGION 4 REPORTED THAT SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE, THE NUMBER OF HAMLETS UNDER VIET CONG CONTROL HAD INCREASED FROM 25 TO 53 OUT OF A TOTAL OF 168. HOWEVER, THESE HAMLETS REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF THE PROVINCE. THERE WERE TWO MAJOR VIOLATIONS IN MILITARY REGION 3 AND ELEVEN IN MILITARY REGION 4.

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IN CAMBODIA, THE SITUATION IN THE PREY VENG - NEAK LUONG AREA HAS EASED SOMEWHAT, BUT SIZEABLE COMMUNIST FORCES REMAIN IN THE AREA. GOVERNMENT TROOPS NORTH OF BANAM HAVE RECOVERED ALL BUT ONE OUTPOST IN THAT REGION. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY REMAINED HIGH AT SPAY RIENG CITY. THE ENEMY ONCE AGAIN CLOSED ROUTE 2 SOUTH OF TAKEO CITY AND SHOT DOWN A CAMBODIAN AIRCRAFT. FIGHTING ALSO TOOK PLACE NORTH OF OUDONG AND AT KOMPONG THOM CITY.

LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS ARE UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LAOS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE RECAPTURED MUONG PHALANE AND FORCED FRIENDLY TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM PAKSONG YESTERDAY. A COMPLETE GOVERNMENT PULLBACK FROM THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU SEEMS LIKELY. THE FOUR GOVERNMENT GROUPS MOVING ON SARAVANE HAVE BEEN BADLY BATTERED AND NONE IS CONSIDERED COMBAT-EFFECTIVE. THE ENEMY IS EXPECTED TO PURSUE THE WITHDRAWING TROOPS AND TRY TO SEIZE KHONG SEDONE BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE. U.S. PILOTS FLEW 256 ATTACK AND 51 B-52 SORTIES YESTERDAY.

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